

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/779943 Confirmation No. 9354
Applicant : Nobuyuki Tatsumi
Filed : February 17, 2004
TC/A.U. : 1797
Examiner : Bobby Ramdhanie
Title : AUTOMATIC SAMPLER AND METHOD FOR
RINSING NEEDLE OF THE SAME
Docket No. : NGB-15306
Customer No. : 040854

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

A telephonic interview was conducted in connection with the above-identified patent application on April 17, 2008 at 1:30pm. The parties to the interview were Samir S. Khoury (undersigned), Bobby Ramdhanie (Patent Examiner), and Walter Griffin (Supervisory Patent Examiner). The substance of that interview is as follows:

The rejection of pending claims 1, 2, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Goto et al. (JP 3142606) was discussed. Applicant presented a principal argument that the Goto reference fails to teach "a second rinsing section" as defined by claim 1. Further, clarification of the rejection of the claims was requested.

The interview concluded without specific resolution regarding the rejection of the pending claims. The Patent Examiner and the Supervisory Patent Examiner stated that the argument would be considered with the response to the outstanding Office action.

Respectfully submitted,

RANKIN, HILL & CLARK LLP

By /Samir S. Khoury/
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